



People and Nature: Our Future is in the Balance

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Establishing a Science Team

One of your first critical tasks will be establishing an Expert Science Team to develop science-based environmental flow regime recommendations based on existing science. We have included several items here that we hope might be useful to you as begin that process.

One document is entitled “The Sustainable Rivers Project.” This document provides the broad outlines of something known as the “Savannah Process” which has been used to develop environmental flow regime recommendations in many places around the country, including for the Caddo Lake watershed in Texas. This process is designed to allow informed decisions to be made in a relatively short period of time.

We have also included various documents related to the application of the “Savannah Process” to Caddo Lake and its tributary watersheds. Unfortunately, we were not able to obtain a single document that explains the whole process. Although we recognize that the documents included here present only a sketchy overview of the steps involved in that effort, we hope they provide enough information to allow you to decide if the process used there merits further consideration in your efforts.

The basic process involved retaining a group of experts to develop a comprehensive literature review of relevant information and to synthesize the information to focus on key issues. That initial work product formed the basis of a workshop involving a large number of knowledgeable experts during which an initial version of flow recommendations was developed. Since that first workshop, additional efforts have been undertaken to refine those flow recommendations.